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Union has involved have been due primarily to the provision by which each government agreed to accept the coins of the other governments as legal tender, and the history of the Union plainly shows the impracticability of such an arrangement. It throws very little light, however, upon international agreements of other sorts.

Among minor errors of fact may be mentioned the statement that Holland had definitely passed to a gold standard before 1874 (p. 135), and the assertion that Belgium guaranteed France, by the treaty of 1885, that the balance due should not exceed two million francs (p. 234). This should be two hundred millions.

Professor Willis's account of the Latin Union and of its various conferences is evidently based in large part upon a direct examination of official reports and contemporaneous publications. It presents much valuable material. It contains many details which were not easily accessible before, especially with regard to the experiences of the smaller states, and with regard to the problems and discussions of the later conferences. For these reasons the book deserves a place in all collections of monetary literature. One can only regret that the labor expended was not joined with a more judicial temper, so that the result might have been authoritative and final.

A. PIATT ANDREW.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

Slavery as an Industrial System. Ethnological Researches.

By DR. H. J. NIEBOER. The Hague, Nijoff, 1900. — xx, 474 pp.

While the literature on slavery is considerable, there has not yet been a satisfactory attempt to give a thorough-going explanation, on economic lines, of the rise and development of this important institution. Of the two English books of any account, that of Cairnes is frankly unhistorical and that of Ingram is so slight and so eclectic as to be of little use. In foreign languages the only attempts deserving of notice are those of the Italians. Ciccotti, in his book *Il Tramonto della schiavitù*, gives an interesting but somewhat one-sided description of slavery in Greece and Rome; while Loria, who has done the most to clear up the topic, has treated of slavery as only one among the many economic phenomena in his comprehensive survey. The French and German works on slavery are practically useless. The ordinary encyclopedias and text-books are filled with conventional accounts which are neither enlightening nor conclusive. It was high time that an effort should be made

to discuss the history of slavery in the light of the progress of modern ethnology and of recent historical economics.

The volume before us is evidently the work of a young man hitherto unknown, who has carried on his investigations in Holland under the direction of his teacher and friend, Dr. S. R. Steinmetz, the eminent ethnologist and comparative jurist. It is fortunately written in English, and in very good English at that. The work is something entirely unique in economic history. In the first place, Mr. Nieboer has ransacked the stores of ethnological literature for his facts. His list of authorities covers twenty-three pages, almost all of the items being books of description and travel; his exceedingly detailed accounts cover every part of the habitable world. In the second place, Mr. Nieboer gives evidence of critical ability. He subjects his materials to a thorough analysis, comparing the descriptions of the same tribe by different writers and estimating the importance to be assigned to the statements of each. Having ascertained the facts, he proceeds to inquire what conditions govern the occurrence of the phenomena observed. Advancing in turn the various hypotheses that may be assumed to account for the phenomena, he ascertains by a process of exclusion that each explanation in turn is insufficient, until he arrives at a general rule under which all the facts in each epoch can be subsumed. In this way he is able to reach a fairly satisfactory conclusion. The existing explanations are all of them found to be inadequate. Letourneau's conclusions, in his *L'Évolution de l'esclavage*, contain nothing but the hackneyed evolutionary phrases. Ingram's theory is vitiated by his acceptance of Comte's utterly inadequate account of the relation between slavery and religion. Cairnes's principles, while having some applicability to American conditions, do not hold at all with regard to primitive slavery.

Dr. Nieboer, it may be said at once, gives a frankly economic explanation of slavery. It is true that he declares himself not to be a partisan of historical materialism or of the economic interpretation of history. But it is quite evident that he means by this that he does not desire to explain all history in terms of economics. When it comes to the subject of his book, however, he gives an almost exclusively economic interpretation of the great economic fact of slavery.

The volume is divided into two parts, descriptive and theoretical. The descriptive part, covering about one-fourth of the entire work, gives a definition of slavery and distinguishes slavery from

kindred phenomena. It thereupon describes the geographical distribution of slavery, throughout the world and from the earliest times, going into all the details of the tribes in North and South America, in Australia and Melanesia, in the Malay Archipelago, in India and throughout Africa. In this way an immense mass of material, hitherto never collected, has been massed together.

With the theoretical part we come to some valuable discussions and conclusions. Starting out with the provisional hypothesis that the existence of slavery probably depends upon the economic state of society, Mr. Nieboer gives a classification of the economic stages. He is, of course, not satisfied with the old division into the hunting, the pastoral and the agricultural stages. He shows how Dargum, over a decade ago, proved the weakness of this. He discusses in turn, only to reject it, the scheme of Hahn, which, as economists know, has recently been accepted by Schmoller. Nieboer himself, while accepting the hunting and fishing stage, shows that sometimes it developed into pastoral nomadism and that sometimes it did not. He distinguishes three stages of agriculture: in the first, agriculture is carried on at the same time with hunting and fishing, but holds a subordinate place; in the second, agriculture is practiced to a considerable extent, but not to the exclusion of hunting and fishing; in the third, agriculture provides the principal form of subsistence. The secondary characteristics of these three stages of agriculture, according to Nieboer, are as follows: in the first stage, women only are occupied in agriculture, and habitations are still frequently shifted; in the second stage, the tribe has fixed habitations and lands are generally irrigated; in the third stage, lands are manured, rotation of crops is carried on, domestic animals are used and agricultural products are exported. He also shows clearly the various cross-divisions that may take place. In this way he is able to refer every description of savage or barbarian life to some one of these economic stages.

In each stage Nieboer then collects from his descriptive material the positive and negative cases: that is, he sums up the instances where slavery is found and those where slavery is not found, and tries to explain how the existence or non-existence of slavery in the minority of cases in each stage can be explained away. Starting with the early economic conditions, it is easy for him to show why slaves are not of much use to hunters and that almost all of the positive cases of slavery are to be found on the North Pacific Coast of North America. He explains in detail why fishing is not nearly so

unfavorable to the existence of slavery as hunting, summing up the circumstances which account for the existence of slavery on the Pacific Coast as follows: (1) The abundance of food; (2) the variety of food; (3) the preservation of food through fixed habitations; (4) the growth of trade; (5) the development of property and wealth; (6) the condition of women; and (7), incidentally, the problems of militarism. He compares conditions here with those of the Australasians, the Indians of Central North America and the Esquimos, and he finds the non-existence of slavery in every case to be entirely compatible with his general theory.

Going on to the pastoral tribes, he shows that slavery as an economic system is of very little importance, the characteristic feature of pastoral life being the existence, not of wealth, but of poverty. Moreover, slavery, when found among pastoral tribes, is due entirely to secondary causes. That is, the slaves perform domestic labor; they are sometimes used in warfare; they are kept as luxuries. With the development of agriculture, however, the conditions of a possible spread of slavery arise. The author treats in detail of the application of capital and labor to land, and of the relation between land and population. In the main, Nieboer accepts the views of Loria, which, as is well known, bear much resemblance to those advanced many years before by Wakefield. The author's own statement is as follows:

All savage tribes, as well as all other nations, may be divided into peoples with open resources and with closed resources. Among the former labor is the principal factor of production. There may be capital which enhances the productiveness of labor, but a man can do perfectly well without these advantages. Among peoples with closed resources, subsistence is dependent upon a limited supply of material resources, which have all been appropriated. These resources may consist in capital or in land. Where subsistence depends upon closed resources, slaves may be kept, but slavery as an industrial system is not likely to exist. There are generally poor people who voluntarily offer themselves as laborers. Slavery, therefore, as a system of compulsory labor, is not wanted, and even where there are no poor men, because all share in closed resources, the use of slaves cannot be permanent. The rich have no interest to keep the laborers in the slave-like state. Among people with open resources, on the other hand, the keeping of slaves is economically profitable, but here again only in such cases where subsistence is easily acquired. Where subsistence is difficult to procure, slavery is not likely to exist. On the other hand, there are several secondary causes, both internal and external, which explain why slaves are sometimes kept by peoples with closed resources, or by peoples

among which subsistence is difficult to procure, and, on the other hand, why slavery is sometimes absent where resources are open and subsistence is easy to acquire.

He discusses the conditions of land tenure in Polynesia, Micronesia, Melanesia and Oceanica, and proves that slavery in the agricultural stage depends very largely upon the existence of free land. He proceeds to discuss the transition from serfdom to freedom in Western Europe, and to show the inaccuracy of Hildebrand's theory that natural economy leads to serfdom and money economy leads to freedom. Several chapters are added on the condition of women in reference to slavery, on slaves employed in warfare and on the slave trade. Almost nothing is said about Greece or Rome; the great mass of detailed information is confined to the early history of society.

Mr. Nieboer does not pretend to have exhausted the subject. He outlines, at the close of his work, a series of further investigations which are still to be made—such as the different ways in which people become slaves or cease to be slaves, the legal and actual status of slaves, the number and various kinds of slaves, the attitude of public opinion toward slavery and the consequences of slavery. All these subjects are to be treated later on, and we shall await the results with interest. In the instalment which the author now presents, he has accomplished what no one has hitherto done—that is, he has shown in detail the true economic origin of slavery and the real reasons for its existence. He has also incidentally proved that there is no distinction between the slave-labor economy and the so-called trade economy, but that trade is often largely responsible for the existence and growth of slavery. He has, above all, taught us to look for the causes of slavery and of its disappearance, not in any assumed religious or ethical phenomena, but in the facts of economic life itself. While many of his individual assertions will no doubt be traversed hereafter, there is reason to believe that in this book we have the starting point for the real investigation of the future.

EDWIN R. A. SELIGMAN.

L'Industrie dans la Grèce ancienne. Par HENRI FRANCOTTE.
Bruxelles, Société Belge de Librairie, 1901. — 2 vols. : 343, 376 pp.

The last few years have seen much controversy on the subject of industrial conditions and economic theory among the Greeks. The controversy was precipitated by Bücher, whose recent studies gave